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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT 1. Popular Discontent with Roxha Regime
2. Function of Watch Patrols

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Popular Discontent with Hoxha Regime:

1. In almost every village and town in Albania there are small groups of Albanians who are working actively against the Hoxha regime. They engage in propaganda activities against the present Government and are waiting for the day of liberation. These groups have no connections with anti-Communist groups outside of Albania.
2. Ninety per cent of the population is ready to support any serious attempt to overthrow the present Government. However, the question uppermost in the minds of the people is: What assurances will be given that [redacted] Yugoslavia will not acquire territory at the expense of Albania? 50X
3. In the Martanesh area, [redacted] indigenous leaders could rally approximately 250 men on a 24-hour notice if a definite time were established for the overthrow of the Hoxha regime. 50X
4. A majority of Communists in Albania today are ready to work with any organization which plans to overthrow the Government. Reasons given by these Communists for this attitude are as follows:
 - a. They are disappointed with the Hoxha regime.
 - b. They are fully aware of the fact that the Soviet Union will not risk a general war to save Albania.
 - c. They are of the opinion that the Hoxha regime will fall; consequently,

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they will have to answer to the succeeding government for their past associations and activities. In view of this contingency, they will readily cooperate with any group which will offer them some assurances that their past activities will be forgiven.

5. The police, who were formerly trusted by the Hoxha regime, are no longer looked upon as a trusted element of the Government. It is believed that only one quarter of the police units are loyal to the Government. This situation is a direct result of the Government's policy which established compulsory service with police units in addition to regular military service. Hence, when a man has completed his compulsory period of enlistment with the Army, he is compelled to serve an additional period with police units. This policy has been met with much resentment by the people and has created an unpopular attitude toward the Hoxha regime.
6. Since 1 March 1952, the people in certain communities in Diber, Elbasan and Korce have been supplied with arms. Small villages have been issued from 10 to 15 rifles and towns consisting of 400 people or more have been issued up to 100 rifles.

Function of Watch Patrols:

7. Each town or village has been charged with the responsibility for guarding its immediate environs. Regular watch patrols have been established with trusted Party members controlling each patrol. The patrols' duties are as follows:
 - a. To secure the area against infiltration by air.
 - b. To pursue and apprehend individuals or groups of individuals who have infiltrated into their area for purposes contrary to the security of the present Government.
 - c. To pick up leaflets and supplies which may be air-dropped into their area.
8. Watch patrols are posted from 2000 to 2400 hours. Local Party leaders are responsible for designated areas of each town, and they are the only individuals carrying arms. The population has resisted (in serving on watch patrols?) to some degree, but it is helpless and can do no more than complain.
9. The civilian population is forced to listen to political speakers almost daily. A farmer [] when he returns from his fields he is immediately summoned to listen to political speeches by Party leaders in his village. These talks usually continue until midnight. The Party feels that the population should not be allowed any free time lest they find the opportunity to conspire against the Government.
1. [] Comment: In view of the reported hostility of the population, this statement is highly improbable.

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